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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(MBHB Case No. 99,829-A)**

TITLE : Treatment and prevention of gastrointestinal disease using
antagonists or partial agonists of 5HT_{1a} receptors

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention provides a method for preventing and treating gastrointestinal diseases such as dyspepsia, irritable bowel disease and chemotherapy-associated nausea by administering an antagonist or partial agonist of 5HT_{1a} receptors.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Dyspepsia is a common symptom ranging in prevalence from 26% in the United States to 41% in England (1). Whilst only 1 in 4 patients seek medical help (2) the condition results in significant health care costs (3) and an organic cause is found in only 40% of patients. The Rome criteria for diagnosing idiopathic or nonulcer dyspepsia (NUD) were put forward in 1991 and consist of chronic or recurrent upper abdominal pain or discomfort in the absence of obvious pathology (4). The Rome group suggested subcategorising NUD into ulcer-like, reflux-like, dysmotility-like and non-specific dyspepsia. This classification has been questioned on the grounds that there is a marked overlap of symptoms and an overlap between the symptoms and those of the irritable bowel syndrome (5).